

## Senate Resolution 573

By: Senators Hill of the 4th and Johnson of the 1st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the 275th anniversary of the arrival of the first Salzburger in Georgia,  
2 commending the Georgia Salzburger Society; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Protestant Reformation of the 1500's resulted in the establishment of  
4 Protestant churches in Germany, Switzerland, England, Scotland, and Scandinavian  
5 countries; and

6 WHEREAS, the rulers of the Province of Salzburg were opposed to the Lutheran teachings  
7 of the Protestant churches, and in 1731, 150 men known as the Saltlickers gathered in  
8 Salzburg and swore to stand by their Protestant beliefs; and

9 WHEREAS, as a result of this fateful meeting, the Archbishop of Salzburg issued the Edict  
10 of Expulsion, ordering all citizens of Salzburg who followed the teachings of Martin Luther  
11 into exile; and

12 WHEREAS, 20,000 Protestants were expelled from Salzburg for their religious beliefs, with  
13 16,000 fleeing to East Prussia, 3,500 settling throughout Europe, 200 moving to Holland, and  
14 300 making their way to the United States of America; and

15 WHEREAS, on March 12, 1734, the first Salzburger arrived in Savannah, Georgia, from  
16 Salzburg, which is now known as Austria; and

17 WHEREAS, the Georgia Salzburger Society was founded in 1925 with the mission to  
18 preserve the heritage and history of the early Salzburger settlers; and

19 WHEREAS, today the Georgia Salzburger Society has a membership of nearly 1,800 and the  
20 current president is Ann R. Purcell, a Salzburger descendant and a former member of the  
21 Georgia General Assembly; and

22 WHEREAS, this year marks the 275th anniversary of the Salzburger arrival in Georgia in  
23 pursuit of religious freedom.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
25 recognize the 275th anniversary of the exiled Salzburger arrival in the State of Georgia and  
26 commend the Georgia Salzburger Society for preserving the rich heritage of these early  
27 settlers.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
29 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Georgia Salzburger Society President  
30 Ann R. Purcell.